

Warrior Transition Units

At 25 Warrior Transition Units (WTUs) and nine Community Care Units (CCUs) across the country, wounded, ill, and injured Soldiers have one mission: to heal and prepare for transition. WTUs play a key role in the Army's Warrior Care and Transition Program, an overarching effort to provide the best possible care and support throughout the recovery and transition process.

The WTU structure represents a major transformation in the way the Army supports Soldiers who require at least six months of complex medical care and Reserve component Soldiers requiring definitive medical care. The Army asks a lot of its Soldiers, and it accepts the responsibility to provide the resources, tools, and equipment necessary to support each Soldier as they transition to the next stage of their lives— whether back to the force or onto civilian life.

WTUs are the backbone of this program. While they resemble a traditional "line" Army unit, their singular mission is to provide comprehensive outpatient management that allows Soldiers to successfully heal and transition. Located at major military treatment facilities since 2007, WTUs provide a standardized framework of care and support. The more than 5,600 Soldiers assigned to these units develop a Comprehensive Transition Plan (CTP), a standardized framework that includes a personalized plan for the Soldier by the Soldier, with short- and long-term goals in six domains of life: Family, physical, social, spiritual, emotional, and career.

To complete their mission of healing and transition, Soldiers spend their days accomplishing the goals set in the CTP. In addition to medical appointments, they undergo physical rehabilitation, meet with behavioral health therapists, participate in adaptive sports and reconditioning programs, and complete internships and training. Standing behind them through each stage of their recovery and transition is the Triad of Care (primary care manager, nurse case manager, and squad leader) and interdisciplinary team of medical and non-medical professionals who work with Soldiers and their Families to ensure that they receive the support they deserve.



Staff Sgt. Mike Smith, Warrior Transition Battalion (WTB), Fort Sam Houston, Texas, exemplified resilience when his prosthetic arm broke during the cycling challenge for the 2014 U.S. Army Warrior Trials, West Point, N.Y. Despite missing his prosthetic arm, Staff Sgt. Smith showed onlookers what resilience looked like and ultimately finished the race. *(U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. Eric Lieber)*

"I believe that performing in cycling will help me overcome my injury," said Staff Sgt. Mike Smith, who began participating in adaptive reconditioning activities like sports at the WTB at Fort Sam Houston. Adaptive reconditioning activities help wounded, ill and injured Soldiers and Veterans stay physically active, hone skills and serve as an emotional outlet during the recovery and rehabilitation process.

By working with his interdisciplinary team to create his Comprehensive Transition Plan (CTP), he is achieving significant personal goals. He participates in a variety of adaptive reconditioning sports programs, which enhance his recovery and enable him to understand how much he can still accomplish despite his injuries. He competed in the first U.S. Army Warrior Trials in June 2014, an event that helped determine who will participate in Warrior Games.

WARRIOR TRANSITION UNITS

“At first I felt like a burden on the Army. But once I realized that I had a clear mission, and that mission was to get better, heal — I didn’t feel like a burden anymore. This is my job now.”

– SFC John Wright, WTU Soldier

WTUs play an essential role in the Army’s holistic approach to supporting wounded, ill, and injured Soldiers throughout their recovery and transition. This involves support for their Families and helping them prepare for the next stage of their lives.

- **Families and Caregivers** are closely involved in all aspects of the Soldier’s recovery. They attend medical appointments and participate in the Soldier’s regular review meetings through the goal-setting process of the Comprehensive Transition Plan.
- **Soldier Family Assistance Centers (SFACs)** located near most WTUs provide a variety of services to assist with administrative and personal needs.
- **Career and Education Readiness** programs assist Soldiers with the next stage of their careers. Soldiers participate in internships, work-site placements, training, college classes, and other career opportunities.
- **Adaptive Sports** programs help Soldiers regain confidence and achieve their physical fitness goals. Physical therapists actively look for ways to incorporate adaptive sports into each Soldier’s recovery plan.
- **Army Wounded Warrior Program (AW2)** supports the most severely wounded, ill, and injured, regardless of where they are located or military status. AW2 strives to foster the Soldier’s independence and self-sufficiency, enabling the Soldier to live a productive life post-injury.
- **Community Care Units (CCUs)** Members of the National Guard and Reserve may be assigned to one of the nine CCUs, depending on the Soldier’s medical condition. These Soldiers live at home—close to the support of their Families and communities—and receive care through the TRICARE network. They also receive the standardized benefits of the WTU structure. Approximately 1,000 Soldiers currently utilize the CCU system.

BY THE NUMBERS

- * **5,635 Soldiers currently recovering at WTUs and CCUs**
- * **Active Duty: More than 2,600**
- * **National Guard: More than 1,700**
- * **Reserve: More than 1,200**
- * **More than 3,600 professional military and civilian cadre**
- * **Soldiers in WTUs who have deployed to theater at some point in their careers: 84.3 percent**
- * **Battle injured: 5.5 percent**
- * **PTSD as primary diagnosis: 12.1 percent**
- * **Soldiers supported by WTU programs since 2007: 62,225**
- * **Soldiers returned to the force: 46 percent**

Numbers current as of July 7, 2014